
Section 6

Technology Status

Currently, several hundred constructed and natural wetlands are treating coal mine drainage in the eastern United States. The effectiveness of these systems is discussed in several publications including Hammer 1989, Moshiri 1993, and the proceedings of annual meetings of the American Society for Surface Mining and Reclamation, and several U.S. Bureau of Mines papers (U.S. Bureau of Mines Special Publication SP066-4 and Information Circular IC 9389) (see Appendix B).

In addition, any constructed wetlands designed to treat metal mine drainages have been constructed and tested or are being tested by EPA, various state agencies, and industry. In Colorado, the state Division of Minerals has constructed several wetland systems to treat metal mine drainage. Constructed wetlands treatment is also being considered for the full-scale remedy of the Burleigh Tunnel drainage.